

## *Impact Evaluation on Recreation*

**The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value.**

### **Background**

TVA is conducting a formal evaluation of its policies for operating the Tennessee River reservoir system, including an analysis of the economic impacts of any potential changes in these policies. Existing policies affect how much reservoir levels fluctuate, when changes in reservoir levels occur, and the amount of water flowing through the reservoir system at different times of the year, depending on rainfall.

The purpose of the study is to determine if changes in TVA's reservoir system operating policies would produce greater overall public value. Technical analyses will be performed to evaluate the impacts of TVA's current policies and the potential impacts of alternatives on a number of resource areas and other issues.

The two-year Reservoir Operations Study (ROS) is scheduled for completion in October 2003.

The impacts on recreation will be evaluated as part of the ROS, and the results will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). TVA will conduct the study in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

### **Potential Impacts**

- The recreational use of the reservoirs, tailwaters, and shorelands produce economic and social benefits that improve the quality of life in the Valley. On an annual basis, most of this use takes place between May and September.
- Changes in reservoir operating policies, such as changes in how reservoir levels fluctuate and/or when changes in reservoir levels occur, could increase or decrease recreational opportunities on TVA reservoirs.

### **Geographic Areas**

- TVA will gather data from people who use marinas, campgrounds, parks, private water-use facilities, and other facilities or areas immediately adjacent to or downstream from the reservoirs.

### **Scope of Analysis**

- Data will be gathered from recreational users to determine how often they use the reservoir system and what types of recreation activities are important to them.
- This information will be used to assess the nature and significance of changes in recreational use, including economic impacts, that would occur if current reservoir operations are changed.

### **For More Information**

To submit comments or get additional information, members of the public are invited to visit TVA's Web site at [www.tva.com](http://www.tva.com), to call toll-free 888-882-7675, to fax TVA at 865-632-3146, or to write to ROS Project Manager David Nye, Tennessee Valley Authority, c/o WT 11A, 400 West Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902.